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Hamilton Association

(For the Promotion of Science, Literature and Art.)

INSTITUTED 1857. INCORPORATED 1883.

CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

As Amended by Resolution passed April 14th and May 12th.
1892.

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

*As amended by resolution passed April 14th
and May 12th, 1892.*

NAME AND OBJECTS.

1. The main objects of the Hamilton Association shall be the cultivation of Science, Literature and Art, the formation of a Museum, Library, and Art Gallery, and the illustration of the Physical Characteristics, Natural History and Antiquities of the country.

MEMBERS.

2. Members shall be of three classes, Ordinary, Corresponding, and Honorary. Both ladies and gentlemen shall be eligible for membership.

3. Ordinary members are those who pay an annual contribution of two dollars ; a payment of twenty dollars shall entitle to ordinary membership for life.

4. Corresponding members are those who reside at a distance from the city and contribute to the objects of the Association. They shall have all the privileges of ordinary members, with the exception of being eligible for office. They may at any time become ordinary members by the payment of ordinary membership fees.

5. Honorary members must be men eminent for their literary or scientific attainments. They shall be exempt from payment of fees ; they may attend the meetings of the Association, and shall be furnished with copies of the Journal and Proceedings, but shall not hold office.

6. Proposals for the admission of members may be made at any regular meeting, and decided by vote at the next regular meeting.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

7. The Officers shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Curator of the Museum, and Assistant Secretary and Curator, who, together with the Past Presidents resident in the city, the

chairmen of all working sections and five elected members, shall form the Council.

8. The Office-bearers and five members of the Council shall be elected at the regular meeting in April of each year. They shall enter upon their duties at the annual meeting in May, and shall continue in office for one year or until their successors are appointed. They may be re-elected to the same or any other office.

MODE OF ELECTION.

9. The Office-bearers and the Committee shall be elected in the following manner, after *viva voce* nomination: Each member shall write the name of the person he selects for the office, and put the paper, without signature, in the ballot box. The Secretaries, or two Scrutineers, specially appointed, shall report the number of votes for each nominee, and the person having the majority of votes shall be elected. In case there are more than two nominees for one office, and no one has a majority of the total number of votes, the one having the smallest number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh ballot taken.

MEETINGS.

10. The Association shall meet on the second Thursday of every month, from November to May inclusive, at eight o'clock p.m., unless otherwise ordered by the Council—five members to constitute a quorum.

11. Special meetings may be held at any time, on the call of the President, in his own right, or on the requisition of three members, for the transaction of any stated business.

12. A majority of votes cast shall determine every question.

13. The President, or chairman of the meeting, shall have a casting vote in addition to the ordinary vote.

SECTIONS.

14. To allow those members of the Association, who devote attention to particular branches of science, fuller opportunities of meeting and working together with fewer formal restrictions than are necessary at the general meetings of the Association, Sections may be established in connection with any of the branches of learning coming within the scope of the Association. There shall be for each section a Chairman to preside at the meeting, and a Secretary who shall prepare for the last meeting in May in each year, a report of

the proceedings of the section during the year. Meetings of the sections may be called at any time by the Chairman. No person who is not a member of the Association shall have the privilege of joining any of the sections.

ALTERATIONS.

15. No alteration or addition to the Constitution or By-laws of the Association shall be made unless carried by a two-thirds vote at two successive regular meetings.

16. No alteration in the Constitution can be considered, except on the written motion of three members.

17. Should the Association at any time become inactive, the Library and Museum shall be preserved entire and deposited with some scientific or educational institution in the city.

PAYMENTS.

18. The membership fee of two dollars shall be payable within one month after the election of each member, and annually thereafter.

19. No ordinary member, in arrears for one year, shall be entitled to vote, or be eligible for office, and if, after two years, his annual fees remain unpaid, he shall, *ipso facto*, cease to be a member.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

PRESIDENT.

20. The President, when in the chair, shall inform the Association of the proceedings of the Council since the last report, receive and read motions and cause the sense of the meeting to be taken on them, preserve order, and direct the proceedings of the meeting in the regular course. An appeal may be made from any of his decisions to the meeting.

21. A Vice-President, in the absence of the President, shall preside, perform his duties and have his privileges.

22. In the absence of the President and both Vice-Presidents, a Chairman for the meeting shall be chosen by those present.

SECRETARIES.

23. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all the general correspondence, preserve letters received and copies of letters written by him, announce the receipt of all letters and papers, and read such as the Council or Association may require.

24. The Recording Secretary shall take minutes of the proceedings at the meetings of the Association and the Council, which, when read at the next meeting, and approved, shall be entered in separate minute books. He shall issue notices of the meetings of the Association and Council, in the former case, two days, in the latter, one day before the meeting, and shall notify members of their election.

25. The two Secretaries shall edit the Journal and Proceedings of the Association at the close of each session.

TREASURER.

26. The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds, under the direction of the Council. He shall collect annual membership fees, pay accounts approved of by the Council, make correct entries of income and expenditure, and submit a statement thereof to the Annual Meeting.

AUDITORS.

27. Two Auditors shall be appointed at the meeting, on the second Thursday in April, to examine the Treasurer's books and vouchers, and report to the annual meeting.

LIBRARIAN AND CURATOR.

28. The Librarian and Curator shall have charge of the Library and Museum, under the direction of the Council. He shall make a catalogue of the books, for circulation and reference, in the Library, and of the specimens in the Museum, naming the donors.

29. Any member may obtain from the Librarian any book, not a book of reference, and may retain it for two weeks, when, if no other member has applied for it, he may retain it for another fortnight.

30. Members shall have access to the Library to consult books of reference, at such times as may be specified by the Council.

31. Special donations to the Library or Museum may be accepted on special conditions.

32. Duplicate specimens in the Museum may be exchanged by order of the Council for equivalents.

33. Every member shall have access to the Museum, at the times specified by the Council, and any member may introduce visitors.

34. No case shall be opened without the sanction and presence of the Curator.

COUNCIL.

35. The Council shall have the management of the funds and property of the Association. The shall keep minutes of their proceedings, and report regularly to the Association ; at the annual meeting they shall present a report of the year's work.

36. The Chairman, in his own right, or at the request of any two members, may call a meeting, and four members shall constitute a quorum.

37. The Council shall arrange the order in which papers, or other subjects for consideration, may be brought before the meetings of the Association.

PAPERS.

38. Any paper read before the Association and deemed worthy of preservation or publication shall become the property of the Association.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

At the ordinary meetings the President shall take the chair at the appointed hour, or as soon thereafter as five members are present, and the following order of business shall be observed :—

1. Reading, amending if necessary, and confirming the minutes of last meeting.
2. Transaction of business arising out of the minutes, or lying over from the last meeting.
3. Announcement by the Corresponding Secretary of letters, papers, or other documents received since last meeting—and reading of such of them as may be desired.
4. Report by the Curator and Librarian of donations to the Library or Museum.
5. Giving notice of motions and general business.
6. Balloting for admission of new members.
7. Proposals of members.
8. Introduction of visitors (by any member).
9. Reading and remarks on essays and papers.
10. Announcing, as far as practicable, the business of next meeting.